

Please amend the paragraph bridging lines 15-17 on page 14 in the following manner:

The results depicted in these Tables demonstrate on, the one hand, that ~~CastV-2~~ CAstV-2 strains form a homogeneous group of immunologically related viruses and, on the other hand, that that ~~CastV-2~~ CAstV-2 is immunologically distinct from the other avian astroviruses.

Wp 2-19-10 Please amend the paragraph bridging lines ¹⁵⁻¹⁶ ~~15-17~~ on page ¹⁵ ~~14~~ in the following manner:

Example 3 **Pathogenicity test in young chicks**

Twenty, day-old SPF chicks were inoculated with $10^{5.6}$ plaque forming units (PFU) of an isolate from strain ~~CastV-2~~ CAstV-2 strain a. The virus had been plaque-picked three times from a 10^{-4} dilution of the virus and had undergone a total of 6 CEL culture passages.

All inoculated chicks showed ~~diarrhoea~~ diarrhea and passed partly digested food in ~~faeces~~ feces. When 4 chicks were killed 5 days after infection they all showed some degree of distended small intestines.

The 17 control uninfected chicks showed no such signs and when 5 were killed at 5 days the intestines appeared normal.

It is possible to induce an antibody response by vaccinating parent stock (e.g. at 12-16 weeks of age for broiler breeder stock) with or without prior vaccination with the ~~CastV-2~~ CAstV-2 vaccine as young stock. The antibodies induced by such a vaccination regime are high and are passed through to the progeny in the yolk to provide protection against early challenge with field

astrovirus. It is also possible to vaccinate young birds, in particular with a live attenuated vaccine, early in life, preferably at day-old, to induce active immunity.

Please amend the paragraph bridging lines 14-15 on page 7 in the following manner:

The invention also includes combination vaccines comprising, in addition to the ~~CastV-2~~ CAstV-2 described above, one or more vaccine components of other pathogens infectious to poultry.

Please amend the paragraph bridging lines 19-23 on page 7 in the following manner:

A ~~CastV-2~~ CAstV-2 according to the invention can also be used for the preparation of diagnostic assays. The ~~CastV-2~~ CAstV-2 can be used as an antigen in immuno assays for the detection of ~~CastV-2~~ CAstV-2 antibodies in samples of animals suspected of being infected by that virus. Alternatively, the ~~CastV-2~~ CAstV-2 can be used to raised antisera to be used in a diagnostic assay, i.e. for the detection of ~~CastV-2~~ CAstV-2 antigen.

WP 2.19.10 Please amend the paragraph bridging lines ¹3-9 on page 8 in the following manner:

EXAMPLES

Example 1

Isolation of CAstV-2 strains

~~CastV-2~~ CAstV-2 - VDU/As1